

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated March 18, 2008, issued in connection with the above-identified application. Claims 1, 4, 7-27 and 30-33 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 7-27 and 30-33 have been rejected by this Office Action.

35 USC §112 Rejections

The Office Action rejects Claims 17, 25 and 31 under 35 USC §112 second paragraph.

As to Claims 17 and 31, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 17 and 31 have been amended to traverse such rejections.

Claim 17 now reads, in part, “wherein a second processing means for converting the natural language and a second confirmation means for confirming the results of the second processing means are provided at a stage preceding a first processing means to thereby carry out execution in advance of confirmation of the first processing means to delete confirmation of result of the first processing means.” Claim 31 contains similar language.

The amendments are fully supported by the specification. For example, see the specification on page 41, paragraph 4 to page 42 paragraph 3.

As to Claim 25, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 25 has been amended to traverse such rejection.

Claim 25 now reads, in part, ‘converting means for converting the first natural language inputted to the input means into a plurality of representations of the first natural language having one-to-one correspondence with respect to a representation of a second language by ~~representation by the second language~~ and a representation of a ~~by third language representation~~, the third language being different from both the first and second languages.’”

The amendments are fully supported by the specification. For example, see the specification on page 6, paragraph 2, stating, “a natural language processing apparatus according to this invention includes input means for inputting natural language, conversion means for converting first language inputted to the input means into representation having one-to-one correspondence with respect to representation of second language by representation by the second language and representation by third language.”

For at least the foregoing reasons Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections to Claims 17, 25 and 31 have been overcome, and that said Claims are in condition for allowance.

35 USC §102 Rejections

Claims 1, 4, 7-24, 27 and 30-32 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by *Yamauchi* (U.S. Patent No. 5,652,896). Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 17, 27 and 31 have been amended to traverse such rejections.

Claim 1 now reads, in part, “re-converting means for re-converting the at least one representation to a re-converted representation; processing means for translating the re-converted representation first-natural language confirmed by the confirmation means to a second natural language.” Claims 17, 27 and 31 contain similar language.

The amendments are fully supported by the specification. For example, see the specification on page 25 paragraph 2 stating, in relation to re-conversion processing, “[b]y carrying out such a processing, sentence presented to user can be sentence relatively close to the input sentence and sentence delivered to translation processing can be sentence suitable for translation processing.”

The cited art does not disclose or suggest re-conversion processing to convert the same language representation to another representation for processing.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 17, 27 and 31, and the Claims that depend therefrom, are patentably distinguishable and in condition for allowance.

35 USC §103 Rejections

Claims 25, 26 and 33 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yamauchi* in view of *Fushimoto* (U.S. Patent No. 5,742,505). Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse such rejections.

Applicants respectfully submit that the references *Yamauchi* and *Fushimoto* do not disclose or suggest, “confirmation means for confirming the representation of the third language converted at the converting means as being closest in meaning to the inputted first natural language; processing means for implementing processing to the first natural language inputted at the input means in accordance with result of the confirmation at the confirmation means.”

The Office Action cites *Yamauchi* in col. 38 lines 1-5 that state, in part, "a user selection portion 31 (a second selecting means) is coupled with a word-to-word translation portion 32 and a retranslation portion 33." However, *Yamauchi* merely refers to further translating from an inputted language into another language, instead of receiving confirmation of a translation in a 3rd language and using that confirmation of the 3rd language to translate into a 2nd language as is claimed and fully supported by the specification. For example, see the specification on page 23, paragraph 2 stating, in part, "On the other hand, in the case where translation from Japanese to German is assumed, English-German translation has generally accuracy higher than Japanese-German translation in automatic translation by machine. Accordingly, in the case where a user is also familiar with English in addition to Japanese, there can be also realized a system configuration to carry out conversion of representation by first carrying out translation from the Japanese to the English to allow user to confirm its result to translate it into German." In contract, the system in *Yamauchi* would have the translation to English and a separate translation to German based on the Japanese input not the English confirmation of the translation as is claimed. Additionally the reference *Fushimoto* cannot be relied upon to cure the deficiencies of *Yamauchi*.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 25 and 33, and the Claims that depend therefrom, are patentably distinguishable and in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLP

BY _____

Thomas C. Basso
Reg. No. 46,541
Customer No. 29175

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